STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT.

PRESIDENT: Before we pass on to the next item, I have an observation to make, particularly in the light of the experience which I have gained by being present in the Chair today. I fully sympathise with the Government members who have got to answer volleys of questions on particular subjects which are dealt with in the agenda of the day. The right to claim notice should not be exercised freely and frequently. (*Hear, hear*). It should be exercised only when the Government Member is asked on matters not immediately within his knowledge, on matters on which he has got to make further investigation before he can commit himself definitely and on matters which are not directly related to the question under discussion. But when a Government Member comes into the House to answer a question, the House naturally assumes that he is fully conversant with the intricacies and the ramifications connected with that particular question. Liberty to ask for notice for every question is not a liberty which should be tolerated very much and I only hope that the members on the Government Benches will not indulge in that privilege very often. (*Hear, hear*).

I have an announcement to make. Under rule 79 of the Travancore Legislative Rules soon after the commencement of each financial year, a committee on Public Accounts has got to be constituted. Of the three non-official members of the Committee, two have to be elected by the non-official members of this House and one by the non-official members of the other House. Similarly, three non-officials have also to be elected to the Standing Finance Committee, two from this House and one from the other.

The practice, I understand, in the past has been to conduct the election by ballot. As the two Committees have to be constituted at the commencement of each of the financial year, a day has to be fixed for the election of the members from this House during this Session of the Assembly. I have therefore to fix a date and hour as well as the method of election. I think it will be convenient to Honourable members if I should fix Saturday next immediately after the business of the House is over for the purpose of conducting the elections. The elections will, as in the past, be by ballot and the elections would be proceeded with either by the Deputy President or one of the gentlemen who are in the panel of chairmen, whoever happens to be present at that time. I considered it necessary to make as early an announcement as possible for obvious reasons. (*Laughter*).

VOTING ON DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

DEMAND III—ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT—(contd.)

Motion No. 257—(*contd*).

PRESIDENT: When the House adjourned yesterday, it was in possession of motion No. 257 on the Agenda relating to Demand No. III and I suppose Mr. S. J. Nair, who had moved it, had finished his speech. Am I right?

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